

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
December 6, 2021**

Present: Jennifer Anderson, Jacob Benda, Isaac Drewes, David Geslin, Nils Halker
Kathrine Handford, Kristina Langlois, Sr. Stacie Lightner, Laura Potratz,
Kris Rizzotto, Lise Schmidt

Absent: Joyce Brown, John Varona

Also present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Call to Order by Dean Jacob Benda at 6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via the Zoom App.

The meeting began with a commentary by Chaplain John Setterlund on Saint Nicolas of Myra whose Feast Day is Dec. 6. He is the patron saint of Russia, Greece and of sailors. Nicolas is also associated with Christmas because of his concern for the sick, the hungry, and children.

The agenda for this meeting was approved.

The November Minutes were approved as corrected.

Motion: Kristina Langlois moved to accept the minutes as corrected

Second: Kris Rizzotto

Motion carried.

Report: Treasurer's Report given by David Geslin

-There is little financial activity this month. Statistics regarding membership numbers are not yet available but should be available in January.

Report: Program Committee Report given by Jennifer Anderson.

-The Mid-Winter Workshop is going to be on January 22, 2022 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. There will be four presenters. Vanessa Cornett will speak on "Mindful Self Coaching for the Musician." Linda Armstrong and Chris Cherwein will speak on "Children's Programs." Jeffrey O'Donnell and Becca Beam will speak on "Technology and Recording." David Cherwein will speak on "Hymn Leadership."

-There was discussion on Covid precautions and safety for our workshop in January. It was agreed that all publicity must state clearly the expectation of masks and vaccinations ahead of the events. Because of the singing and eating together, it was agreed that masks and vaccine cards will be required for the day, and will be checked at the entrance that day.

-There was lengthy discussion regarding the Honorariums for the presenters at the workshop, as well as policies for all presenters in general. The Program Committee requested clarification because there were differing opinions on the committee on fair compensation. Distinction is made whether they are members or not. It has been the policy not to pay members. However there is concern that we respect the efforts and time put in to the presentations. This discussion remains open.

-The Board wishes to thank Jennifer Anderson and Isaac Drewes for their work in organizing this wonderful event.

Report: Pipe Organ Heritage Committee Chair Nils Halker

-The Western Wisconsin Organ Crawl in October was a success. There were around 40 people at each venue and probably 75-80 people in total. The four venues and performers were written about in the December *Pipenotes* newsletter. It was an enjoyable and fun day for all! Thank you to Nils Halker for organizing this event!

Report: Dean's Report given by Jacob Benda.

-The National AGO Convention will be July 3-7 in Seattle, Washington. The registration is now open.

-The Regional Convention in 2023 in Minneapolis and St. Paul is being planned. There needs to be approval from National AGO for the Co-Chairs David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford.

-The National AGO "Year of the Young Organist" features a competition (\$1,000 prize) for recruiting the most number of young organists. The board is working on identifying potential students and young organists who could join our chapter. Membership is free to anyone under the age of 30.

-The Directory discussion continues. In March a basic pdf will be available to members. It is hoped that people will review and update their information. A printed directory will be assembled and sent in August-September time frame.

New Business

-The TCAGO gets requests for co-sponsorship of programs. In the operating procedures, it is requested to have information and requests in March before the year of the program. The request comes to the program committee and then to the board to be approved, or not. This is sometimes unwieldy and not time sensitive. The discussion is open and will continue.

-Facility fees are going up for our venues. The board will continue to monitor the fees and will favor places with no fees or minimal fees.

-The Dean and the Board will be looking into a committee to look into revising the TCAGO operating procedures. A sub-committee interviewed the heads of committees 3 years ago. Updating the operating procedures is a tedious endeavor. It was pointed out that we might simply address the policies that need updating.

Action Item: Dean Jacob Benda has asked the board to read and review the operating procedures before our next meeting. These are found on our website.

Motion: Lise Schmidt moved that we adjourn the meeting.

Second: Kathrine Handford

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting: February 7, 2022.